



**ERROL SPENCE JR. POUNDS YORDENIS UGAS FOR TENTH-ROUND STOPPAGE IN THREE-BELT WELTERWEIGHT TITLE UNIFICATION BLOCKBUSTER LIVE ON SHOWTIME PPV® SATURDAY NIGHT HEADLINING A PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS EVENT FROM AT&T STADIUM FROM ARLINGTON, TEXAS**

***Isaac Cruz Drops Former Champion Yuriorkis Gamboa Four Times in Dominant Co-Main Event Performance***

***José Valenzuela Crushes Former Champion Francisco Vargas With Highlight-Reel First-Round Knockout***

***Cody Crowley Wears Down, Decisions Tough Veteran Contender Josesito López in Action-Packed Telecast Opener***

***The SHOWTIME PPV will re-air on Saturday, April 23 at 9 p.m. ET/ 6 p.m. PT on SHOWTIME.***

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**ARLINGTON, TX. – April 16, 2022** – The big fish successfully navigated treacherous hometown waters on Saturday night to pick up a third welterweight title. WBA and IBF welterweight champion **Errol “The Truth” Spence Jr.** showed his greatness against WBA champion **Yordenis Ugás**, battling back from early adversity to stop Ugás in the tenth round on SHOWTIME PPV live from AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas headlining a Premier Boxing Champions event before an announced crowd of 39,946.

After Ugas hurt Spence in the sixth, knocking his mouthpiece out, Spence of DeSoto, Texas, stormed back to hurt Ugas repeatedly to the body and eye. By the tenth round, Ugas' right eye was completely shut when referee Laurence Cole stopped the contest for the second time to allow the ringside physician to inspect Ugas' eye.

This time, the doctor advised Cole to stop the bout at 1:44 of the tenth round, giving Spence (28-0, 22 KOs) a resounding victory, a third welterweight belt, and perhaps the greatest triumph of his still accumulating career following a 17-month layoff after corrective surgery to his left eye forced him to pull out of a mega-fight with Manny Pacquiao. Ugas stepped in for Spence on late notice, beating and retiring Pacquiao last summer, setting the stage for Saturday's welterweight unification contest, just the 12<sup>th</sup> in the division's history.

Ugas' size and skill appeared to confound Spence early on. The Cuban Olympic bronze medalist hurt Spence with a right uppercut and a right hand that had Spence falling back into the ropes and sent his mouthpiece flying in the sixth. The referee interrupted the action with 1:32 left in the frame to allow trainer Derrick James to replace the mouthpiece. Following the break, Spence returned fire, banging to Ugas' body to end the frame on a high note.

The referee interrupted the action with 53 seconds left in the eighth to have the doctor examine Ugas' right eye, which was nearly shut, the result of Spence timing Ugas with right hands. Spence jumped on him moments later, nailing Ugas (27-5, 12 KOs) to the body with right hands, sensing the end may be near.

Ugas appeared to hurt Spence to the body with a right hand in the ninth and again with a left to the body, for which he was warned by the referee for veering a little low.

Spence came back and hurt Ugas with a right to the body in the tenth that had him retreating, covering up, clearly in pain. The referee again had the doctor check on Ugas' right eye, this time deciding he had sustained enough punishment. Ugas screamed in dismay, clearly wanting to continue, while Spence shouted to the rafters in pure joy and stomped his feet on the canvas.

Lightweight contender Isaac "Pitbull" Cruz proved his impressive performance against three-division champion Gervonta Davis last December wasn't a fluke. In a dominant, knockdown-filled performance, Cruz dropped the proud former unified featherweight champion Yuriorkis Gamboa three times en route to a violent, fifth-round stoppage of Gamboa in the co-main event.

A monster left-right hand combination from Cruz sent Gamboa careening into the ropes, causing the referee to wave the bout off at 1:32 of the round of the scheduled 10-round lightweight bout.

Cruz threw 36 power punches per round landing an average of 11 per round en route to putting Gamboa on the canvas four times.

“I’m here to defeat and dethrone anyone that gets in my way while putting on a show for the fans,” Cruz said. “I wanted to send a clear message to the division that I’m here to be a world champion no matter what. Mexico, just wait until we arrive. We have something special planned for you when we come back to celebrate.”

Cruz (23-2-1, 16 knockouts) hurt Gamboa with a big left hook early in the first round while Cruz rushed him. Gamboa stumbled back against the ropes, his balance off, legs wobbly and held on to survive the remainder of the round.

Cruz dropped Gamboa (30-5, 18 knockouts) with a right-left combo with seconds left in the second round that buckled Gamboa’s legs and caused him to touch the canvas for the 18th time in his career.

Cruz jumped him to start the third, knocking him down again seconds into the frame for knockdown No. 19 with a left hook. But again, Gamboa danced his way out of trouble again to make it to the fourth. In the fourth, Cruz dropped Gamboa again with a left hand toward the end of the round for No. 20.

José Valenzuela (12-0, 8 knockouts) made a startling statement about his punching power and his future in the lightweight division, landing a looping left hand that sent former champion Francisco Vargas crashing to the canvas, prompting the referee to immediately stop the scheduled 10-round lightweight bout at 1:25 of the first round in Saturday’s second pay-per-view bout. A stablemate of unbeaten two-time world champion David Benavidez, Valenzuela, 22, stepped back to avoid the 37-year-old Vargas’ jab and launched forward and landed a windup left that ricocheted off Vargas’ chin. Vargas (27-4-2, 19 KOs), who won a 130-pound title in 2015, dropped his second straight while Valenzuela has now stopped seven of his last eight opponents.

“I worked hard for this and stayed calm, and I stayed patient and went for it when I saw the opening,” said Valenzuela, who referenced the support of Benavidez, standing in the ring next to him, for helping him. “Working alongside this guy right here, David Benavidez. He has shown me a lot of things in and out. I look to see what he does and what he goes through. He tells me to be patient and that’s what I did. I was expecting (Vargas) to get up but when I took a look back, I knew. It was a good knockout.”

Canada’s Cody Crowley remained undefeated with a tough, punishing unanimous decision victory against veteran contender Josesito López in a 10-round contest of all-action welterweights that kicked off the PPV telecast. The scores were 98-91, 98-91, 99-90 for Crowley.

Crowley (21-0, 9 KOs) sent Lopez to the canvas with a cuffing right hand that seemed to graze the back of Lopez’s head and was deemed a knockdown by the referee.

Though Lopez (38-9, 21 KOs) wasn't hurt in that sequence, he was wobbled throughout by heavy shots, his left eye nearly shut, and his legs unsteady in the later rounds.

Still, as he has done against Canelo Alvarez, Marcos Maidana, Andre Berto and Victor Ortiz, the "Riverside Rocky" soldiered on, refusing to let his corner stop the fight even though he was offering little resistance. Crowley, who, according to CompuBox landed 41% of his power punches and 53 of 440 jabs, was back in action following a sterling SHOWTIME debut in December 2021 when he topped previously unbeaten Kudratillo Abdukakhorov by unanimous decision.

The event was promoted by TGB Promotions and Man Down Promotions.

The SHOWTIME PPV will re-air on Saturday, April 23 at 9 p.m. ET/ 6 p.m. PT on SHOWTIME. **All ACCESS: Spence Vs. Ugas – EPILOGUE** will follow the SHOWTIME PPV replay.

The most trusted and experienced team in combat sports called the pay-per-view. Veteran sportscaster **Brian Custer** hosted the SHOWTIME PPV telecast while versatile combat sports voice **Mauro Ranallo** handled blow-by-blow action alongside Hall of Fame analyst **Al Bernstein** and three-division world champion **Abner Mares**. Three Hall of Famers rounded out the SHOWTIME telecast team – Emmy® award-winning reporter **Jim Gray**, unofficial scorer **Steve Farhood** and world-renowned ring announcer **Jimmy Lennon Jr.** Former junior middleweight world champion **Raúl "El Diamante" Marquez** and sportscaster **Alejandro Luna** served as expert analysts in Spanish on Secondary Audio Programming (SAP).

The executive producer of SHOWTIME PPV was four-time Emmy award winner **David Dinkins Jr.**, the director was **Bob Dunphy**, son of legendary Hall of Famer Don Dunphy.

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**CONTACTS:** Chris DeBlasio, SHOWTIME: (917) 445-7467

Flo Jocou, SHOWTIME: (646) 647-4741

Steve Pratt, BZA: (310) 408-4555

Tim Smith, PBC: (702) 843-3400

Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500, [contact@swansonpr.com](mailto:contact@swansonpr.com)

Joe Trahan, Dallas Cowboys Public Relations: (972) 497-4552

Media Credentials: [www.magname.com](http://www.magname.com)

